



SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON

07 JUL 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army Directive 2017-20 (Timeliness of Valor Award Recommendations)

1. References:

a. Memorandum, Secretary of Defense, Feb 28 2017, subject: Recognition of Acts of Valor.

b. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), 25 June 2015.

c. Memorandum, Secretary of the Army, 25 May 2010, subject: Composition and Operation of the Army Decorations and Unit Awards Boards.

2. Army leaders at every level have an inherent responsibility to ensure appropriate and timely recognition of the extraordinary acts of valor our Soldiers perform. To ensure the prioritization and timely consideration of all valor award recommendations, the following administrative measures are effective immediately:

a. All valor award recommendations from the field will be processed for endorsement within 10 calendar days of receipt at each echelon in the chain of command above the initiating unit through the approval authority.

b. In recognition of the inherent challenges associated with any event that results in valor award recommendations, the 10-calendar day requirement does not apply to the initiating unit. That unit is still required to exercise due diligence, conduct investigations (formal or informal), gather eyewitness statements, and ascertain the specifics associated with the event before submitting any valor award recommendation.

c. Commanders will ensure that the narrative of the award recommendation accurately and concisely communicates the valorous act(s) and conditions under which it (they) occurred. Eyewitness statements must be first-hand accounts that describe the observed valorous act(s) and clearly support the narrative. Recommendations must include the other supporting documents that paragraph 3-20 of reference 1b prescribes.

d. For award recommendations of the Distinguished Service Cross and Medal of Honor, the first colonel (or general officer if a colonel is the recommender) to endorse the award recommendation will forward a copy of the entire recommendation package to the Awards and Decorations Branch (ADB), U.S. Army Human Resources Command upon signature. This step provides the opportunity for administrative corrections to be

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made early in the process. Units will communicate with the ADB at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil.

e. Recommendations for the Distinguished Service Cross will proceed through the chain of command to Human Resources Command. If not recommended for upgrade during the staffing process, the recommendation will be staffed through the Sergeant Major of the Army and Chief of Staff, Army to the Secretary of the Army.

f. The Senior Army Decorations Board will continue to review all submissions for the Medal of Honor and any Distinguished Service Cross recommended for upgrade during staffing. The board will make recommendations through the Chief of Staff, Army to the Secretary of the Army.

g. Commanders are encouraged to approve an interim Silver Star for those individuals recommended for the Medal of Honor.

3. When submitting award recommendations via email to the ADB, units must make sure that any classified information is properly safeguarded and handled in accordance with all applicable policies and regulations. Contact the ADB via unclassified means to arrange for any classified communication. All classified information must be sent to the ADB at usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-awards@mail.mil.

4. These processing timelines and procedures do not apply to valor award recommendations submitted after statutory or regulatory time limits pursuant to title 10, United States Code, section 1130, or to requests to upgrade or reconsider a previous award decision.

5. This directive applies to the Active Army, Army National Guard/Army National Guard of the United States, and U.S. Army Reserve.

6. The Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 is the proponent for this policy. Human Resources Command will publish a military personnel message to implement this policy and will revise AR 600-8-22 accordingly. This directive is rescinded upon publication of the revised regulation.


Robert M. Speer
Acting

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(see next page)

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